

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TOKYO 166

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB IS GW

SUBJECT: HISTADRUT SECRETARY GENERAL COMMENTS ON RECENT TRIP TO
GERMANY

REF: BONN 15295

1. IN COURSE OF LABATT'S INTODUCTORY CALL, HISTADRUT
SECGEN YERUHAM MESHEL DISCUSSED HIS VISIT TO GERMANY DURING
FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AS GUEST OF THE GERMAN TRADE UNION
FEDERATION (DGB)(SEE REFTEL). MESHEL EXPRESSED HIS JUDG-
MENT THAT VISIT WAS SUCCESS, AND THAT ITS TIMING IMMEDIATELY
AFTER INTERIM AGREEMENT HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. FROM ISRAELI
VIEWPOINT, MAIN RESULTS WERE EXPRESSION OF DGB'S STRONG
SUPPORT FOR INTERIM AGREEMENT AND SIGNING OF DGB/HISTRADRUT
GRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT.

2. MESHEL INFORMED US THAT HE USED OCCASION OF VISIT TO
ASK FOR DGB ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT IN PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES
FOR EVENTUAL ARAB ISRAELI LABOR CONTACTS.

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3. GIVEN GROWING DGB INVOLVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE

EAST, MESHEL SAID THAT HE HOPED THAT GERMAN UNIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO FACILITATE EVENTUAL HISTADRUT CONTACTS WITH EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB UNIONS THROUGH DGB SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, AND THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION. THE LATTER RUNS DGB INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND INCIDENTALLY SUBSIDIZES ALSO SOME HISTADRUT RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES. DGB LEADERS IN TURN OFFERED TO SOUND OUT EGYPTIAN TRADE UNION LEADERS DURING PLANNED VISIT TO EGYPT IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. WHILE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI CONTACTS IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE, MESHEL BELIEVES THAT HISTADRUT IS NOW ACQUIRING GREATER ACCEPTANCE BY THIRD WORLD LABOR MOVEMENTS. HE PARTICULARLY CITED RECEPTION WHICH ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED AT DOMEI TENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING IN TOKYO. NOT ONLY WAS THE HISTADRUT WARMLY WELCOMED BY JAPANESE, BUT THE CHAIRMAN OF ICFTU ASIAN REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, NARAYAN OF MALAYSIA, AND THE INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE, BOTH FROM MOSLEM COUNTRIES, EXTENDED THEIR WARM CONGRATULATIONS ON INTERIM AGREEMENT AS SHOW OF NEW ISRAELI SPIRIT OF ACCOMMODATION.

5. IN CONCLUSION MESHEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION OF GOOD AND CLOSE RELATIONS WITH AFL-CIO AND SUPPORT WHICH U.S. LABOR HAD GIVEN NOT ONLY TO HISTADRUT, BUT ALSO TO ISRAELI CAUSE. HE PLANNED TO ATTEND AFL-CIO CONVENTION AND WOULD AFTERWARDS GO ON U.S. AND CANADIAN FUND RAISING TOUR.
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